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## ***Transportation Update***

***June 2001***

### **Construction Begins on I-680 Carpool Lane**

Construction of the southbound I-680 carpool lane at the Sunol Grade began on June 29<sup>th</sup> with a ground-breaking ceremony. Members of the State and federal Legislature and the California Transportation Commission as well as local officials attended. This is the latest project designed to reduce congestion in the I-680 corridor – the second most congested freeway in the Bay Region. An extra lane in Fremont was opened earlier this year. Additional improvements are planned both southbound and northbound.

### **CMA Releases Draft 25-Year Transportation Plan for Comment**

The CMA is in the process of updating its 25-year Countywide Transportation Plan. At its June meeting, the CMA Board released a draft plan for review and comment. The final Plan is scheduled for action at the August 2, 2001 meeting. The long-range plan sets transportation priorities for the County.

The draft Plan includes projects totaling approximately \$4.6 billion. Of this, projects totaling nearly \$2.8 billion will be implemented using known sources of funds such as gas tax revenues, Alameda County's new transportation sales tax, and local funds. The remaining projects will only be implemented if new sources of revenue materialize, such as a regional gas tax or increased bridge tolls.

Of the \$930 million in discretionary federal and state gas tax funds under the control of the CMA, over \$530 million is dedicated to transit projects and just under \$200 million is

reserved for road projects. Bicycle, pedestrian, system management and other types of projects total the remaining roughly \$200 million. The largest single item is the transit capital replacement needs of AC Transit and BART, which together total \$376.6 million of the \$930 million.

In April, the Board held four public meetings to take public input, one in each of the four geographic areas of the county. Public comment was also taken at a special Board meeting on May 11, 2001 and at regular Board meetings. The CMA will take further public comment through July 20<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the draft Plan are available at the CMA offices and at local libraries.

### **Countywide Bicycle Plan Approved**

After more than a year of work, at its June meeting, the CMA Board approved the first countywide bicycle plan. When completed the countywide bikeway network will total approximately 490 miles. Of the 490 miles of proposed facilities, 150 miles are existing. There will be 19 new traffic signals, improvements at 29 freeway interchanges, and seven new bike-pedestrian bridges in addition to 340 miles of new bike facilities. The cost to implement the entire program will total over \$200 million. Copies of the Bicycle Plan are available at the CMA offices.

### **CMA Narrows the List of Candidate Projects for Funding**

The CMA is considering projects for two programs – funds generated by the CMA's exchange program and the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program. Projects totaling 4 times the available

funding have been submitted. To reduce the list, the CMA Board compared the project list to its draft Countywide Transportation Plan and to its guidelines for this funding cycle. As a result, at its June meeting, the Board pared the list of candidates by approximately one-half. The remaining projects will be evaluated further. A draft program will be considered at the August Board meeting, with a final program scheduled for adoption in September.

### **CMA Adopts Consolidated Policy on Timely Project Delivery**

The CMA has programming authority for several state and federal funding programs including State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds, federal STP/CMAQ funds and a portion of the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) program. Each of these programs contains a timely use of funds requirement establishing deadlines for implementation of projects. At its June meeting, the CMA Board approved a combined policy, aimed at assuring timely delivery of projects funded with taxpayer dollars. Project sponsors must meet the requirements of this policy or lose funding. Copies of the policy are available at the CMA offices.

### **Deadlines to Note**

#### 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) & 2001 CMA Transportation Improvement Program

Approximately \$110 million is available for programming to projects in 2001.

<i>Draft Funding Program</i>	<i>August 2, 2001</i>
<i>Final Funding Program</i>	<i>September 27, 2001</i>

Federal Funding Programs – Delivery Deadlines  
Projects programmed with Cycle I TEA-21 funds must have obligated these funds by September 30, 2001. Failure to comply with this deadline could result in the loss of funds programmed to the project. Sponsors with projects that may

have problems with this deadline should contact CMA staff immediately.

### **Legislation**

SB 545 (McClintock) This bill would establish uniform requirements for the evaluation of existing and proposed High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes based on prescriptive study components and methods established in the bill. A comprehensive and cooperative HOV review system already exists for the Bay Area. The CMA opposes SB 545 (McClintock).

SCA 5 (Torlakson) This measure would extend indefinitely the transfer for transportation purposes of funds derived from the State sales tax on gasoline and would provide that a majority vote is required for local transportation tax measures. The CMA supports SCA 5 (Torlakson).

### **Upcoming Meetings**

July	11/12	CTC (Los Angeles)
	16	Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) Board
	16	I-880 Corridor Steering Committee
	17	CMA Technical Advisory Committee
	23	CMA Administration & Legislation Committee
	23	CMA Plans & Programs Committee
	tbd	San Pablo Ave Policy Committee
	tbd	I-580 Corridor Policy Advisory Committee
	tbd	I-680 Corridor Policy Advisory Committee
August	2	CMA Board Meeting
	20	Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) Board
	22/23	CTC (Sacramento)

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